

Appl. No.: 10/722,844
Amdt. Dated: 1/16/09
Reply to Office Action Mailed: 10/21/08

REMARKS

The Office Action, dated October 21, 2008 addressed claims 2, 7-13 and 30. In prior amendments and in this document, claims 1-7 and 14-30 are deleted; claims 8, 12 and 13 are amended. No new claims are added. Consequently, upon entry of this document, claims 8-13 will remain in the application.

The Examiner has indicated allowability of the remaining claims 7-13 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 8, 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, while claims 9-11 depend from amended claim 8. Since it appears that claim 7 was a duplicate of claim 8, claim 7 has been deleted without prejudice. Thus, Claims 8-13 have been rewritten in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and are believed to be allowable in its present form.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of USPN 6,191,784 to Buxton, et al. ("Buxton") in view of USPN 5,512,920 ("Gibson").

The rejection of claims 2 and 30 is moot, because these claims have been canceled without prejudice.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and remarks, a Notice of Allowance for claims 8-13 is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner may contact the undersigned if there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by telephonic communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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